NOTICE OF ACCESS SERVICE AVAILABILITY TO ELIGIBLE MINNESOTA HEALTH CARE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

Yellow Medicine County Family Service Center 930 4th St Suite 4 Granite Falls, MN 56241-1463 (320) 564-2211

You may be able to get paid for expenses to help you get medical care or to attend an appeal hearing. You may also receive reimbursement when your eligibility is made retroactive.

Please read this information sheet carefully.

The Yellow Medicine County Health Care Access Plan will pay for the most cost effective form of transportation to get you to the closest provider capable of providing the level of care needed. If you have your own vehicle and can drive, you must use it whenever possible.

IMPORTANT REMINDER. If you want to be paid for any medical trips, you must get approval before you get medical transportation services. Call the Yellow Medicine County Family Service Center at (320) 564-2211 and ask for the Transportation Coordinator.

- If you drive your car or have a friend, someone in your household or a relative drive for you, you will be paid at a rate of 20 cents a mile to travel up to 30 miles. If there is no provider available within 30 miles, we will pay 20 cents a mile to the closest provider.
- If a volunteer driver or licensed foster parent provides transportation, they will be paid the current IRS rate.
- Bus, cab, or other commercial carrier fares will be reimbursed at the rate charged. You do need prior authorization from the Transportation Coordinator.
- If your doctor says that you must have medical care which they cannot provide, you may get paid for gas, meals, lodging and parking to help you get this care within 60 miles. If there is no specialty care provider available within 60 miles, we will pay 20 cents a mile to the closest provider.
- Someone who must go with you to get necessary medical care (per physician or treatment plan documentation) may also be paid meals and lodging costs at the same rate.
- If your appointment is set for a time that you could reasonably eat at home, reimbursement will not be made for meals.
- You may also be eligible for reimbursement of transportation and related expenses during the months you were found to be eligible before the date you applied.
- All requests for reimbursement must be received within 3 months of the date of service, unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- If you appeal a decision on your MA or MinnesotaCare case, you are eligible for transportation, related expenses and, if necessary, child care costs while you are attending the appeal hearing.

TO GET PAID

Contact the above number to get a voucher, before you go for your medical appointment. Bring or send your appointment slip and a letter from your local medical provider that says you need to go out of area for medical care. (You must attach to signed voucher.) The appointment slip and letter must be provided to the Transportation Coordinator for payment approval.

YOU MUST PROVIDE receipts for meals, lodging, and parking, except for parking meters, with the signed voucher. Provide mileage and state whether your car or another person's was used.

- A. Meals are paid up to the following amounts:
 - Breakfast \$5.50. Breakfast reimbursements may be claimed only if the recipient is away to a medical
 appointment from his/her home in a travel status overnight or departs from home to reach the medical
 appointment before 6:00 AM.
 - Lunch \$6.50. Eligibility for noon meal reimbursement shall be based upon the recipient being at a medical appointment, over thirty-five (35) miles from his/her home, with the medical appointment extending over the normal meal period.
 - Dinner \$8.00. Dinner reimbursement may be claimed only if the recipient is away from his/her home in a travel status overnight or is required to remain in travel status until after 7:00 PM.
- B. Lodging will be limited to \$50.00 per night unless prior approved by the local agency.
- C. Parking fees, bus, cab and other commercial carrier fares will be paid at actual cost.

IF YOU CHOOSE to get medical care that is more than 30 miles (for primary care) or 60 miles (for specialty care) from your home and from a provider that is not the closest provider capable of providing the care you need, you may have to pay for your own costs. This includes emergencies when you can get the services needed at a closer location.

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY contact the Transportation Coordinator as soon as possible after the emergency to make arrangements for reimbursement of expenses.

Minnesota Department of Human Services Health Care Access Services Biennial Plan

Effective January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014

Local Agency or Tribe: Yellow Medicine County

Person Responsible for Development of the Health Care Access Services Biennial Plan:

Robin Schoep, Financial Assistance Supervisor

Telephone Number: 320-564-2211

Name of Person Responsible for Coordination of Health Care Access Transportation Services:

Robin Schoep, Financial Assistance Supervisor

Telephone Number: 320-564-2211

General Purpose Statement: To ensure that applicants/recipients of Medical Assistance (MA), and MinnesotaCare pregnant women and children under 21 years of age are provided with or reimbursed for the appropriate level of needed transportation and other travel related expenses to enable them to access necessary medical treatment. Access transportation services are available to transport the client to and from medically necessary services received from participating providers of services covered under the state MA plan.

Transportation to non-participating providers shall also be paid under this plan if:

- 1. the medically necessary service is covered under the MA state plan; and
- 2. the non-participating provider could be a participating provider if application was made; and
- 3. it results in proper and efficient administration of Minnesota Health Care Programs due to cost
- 4. effectiveness.

Cost Effectiveness: Per Federal Regulations, transportation for each trip made by a recipient must be by the most cost effective means available that suits the medical needs of the recipient.

- Local agencies or Tribes shall direct recipients to utilize all available sources of free transportation services (such as relatives, friends, other public options if available) if it meets the needs of the recipient.
- The next most cost effective means of transportation under this plan is transport by the recipient's private vehicle.
- Reimbursement will not be made to a recipient or other person if the mode of transportation used or related travel expenses are furnished at no cost to the recipient, such as transportation provided by health care plans.
- Reimbursement will not be made for trips/mileage traveled without a recipient in the vehicle (no load miles).
- The local agency must document/describe the method/process of establishing the "least costly method of transportation.
- The local agency must document/describe the method/process of establishing the transport was to the "closest provider" capable of providing the level of care needed.

Part I. Transportation and Related Travel Costs

Recipients/applicants must use the most cost effective method of transportation available to them. Whenever appropriate, the recipient's own vehicle must be used.

A. Services available for recipients receiving medical care from a MA certified provider:

- 1. Mileage reimbursement:
 - 20 cents per mile for non-emergency transportation vehicle provided by individual (family member, self, neighbor, etc.) with vested interest.
 - IRS business mileage deduction rate effective for the date-of-service (DOS) non-emergency transportation using: a vehicle provided by volunteer (individual or organization), with no vested interest and licensed foster parents.
- 2. Parking fees reimbursed at actual cost. Receipts required when available to recipient.
- 3. Yellow Medicine County reimburses volunteer drivers at the IRS business deduction rate in place on the DOS.
- 4. Taxicab, bus and other commercial carrier fares are reimbursed at the established rate.
- 5. Meals: The maximum reimbursement for meals is: Breakfast \$5.50; Lunch \$6.50; Dinner \$8.00
- 6. Lodging: Authorization prior to incurring this cost is required. Limited to \$50.00 per night unless a higher rate is authorized by the local agency.
- 7. When another individual is necessary to accompany the recipient or to be present at the site of a health service, the accompanying individual will be reimbursed for the cost of meals, transportation, and lodging at the same standard as the recipient. Reimbursement may be made for more than one person if required by the physician's treatment plan.
- 8. Transportation and other related travel expenses of family members of recipients in covered treatment programs, such as mental health, if the family member's involvement is part of the recipient's written treatment plan.
- 9. If the client had travel expenses and is later found MHCP eligible (could include the three retroactive MA months), they may be eligible for reimbursement of allowed access transportation services at the reimbursement rates appropriate for the DOS as stated in this plan.
- 10. Transportation and other related travel expenses to out-of-state medically necessary services require prior authorization by Yellow Medicine County for the fee-for-service (FFS) (straight MA) clients. *Transport and related ancillary access services are only provided or reimbursed when the out-of-state medical service has been authorized by the DHS contracted medical review agent.* Out-of-state services are medically necessary services obtained at a provider/facility location that is outside of Minnesota or its local trade area. Access transportation and related ancillary services are provided to the recipient and when necessary one responsible person or attendant.
- 11. Transportation and other related travel expenses to out-of-state medically necessary services require prior authorization/referral of the medical service(s) by the Managed Care Organization (MCO) (health plan). Transport and related ancillary access services are only provided or reimbursed when the out-of-state medical service has been authorized by the health plan. Out-of-state services are medically necessary services obtained at a provider/facility location that is outside of Minnesota or its local trade area. Access transportation and related ancillary services are provided to the recipient and when necessary one responsible person or attendant.
- 12. Yellow Medicine County is responsible for all out-of-state transports and ancillary services of its' FFS and MCO clients.

B. Procedures to Obtain Services:

- 1. Authorization to incur an ATS cost may be arranged in writing, by telephone or online. Documentation of authorization of ATS services must be maintained. Authorization to incur an ATS service cost from Yellow Medicine County is required for:
 - a) Lodging and meal expenses for an MA recipient and/or responsible person accompanying the MA recipient

- b) When the agency has determined access transportation and ancillary services have been misused. Example: An able-bodied individual living at a location with access to a public bus route uses a taxicab rather than the bus to access medical services available by bus transport.
- c) Transportation and related costs to receive DHS contracted reviewer or health plan authorized out-of-state medically necessary services.
- 2. Access services to the closest provider capable of providing the level of care needed **DO** require authorization by Yellow Medicine County to incur the ATS service cost(s).

3. Emergency Needs Procedure:

Authorization to incur the ATS cost(s) is not required. In emergency situations, recipients/applicants must secure transportation and related expenses, using the most cost effective and medically appropriate transportation. Recipients/applicants are required to notify this agency immediately after the emergency to secure consideration of reimbursement for the expenses.

C. Billing and Payment Procedures:

- 1. Providers of transportation and other travel-related services must submit bills for services to Yellow Medicine County Human Services for payment. The bill should include date of service, origin and destination of the transportation mileage from point A to point B, and the cost of service. Origin/destination must be to a covered or coverable service in order for this bill to be paid under this plan.
- 2. Recipients and other persons eligible for reimbursement for costs of transportation and other related services shall submit to Yellow Medicine County Human Services actual receipts, when available, or signed, dated, and itemized statements of mileage and/or other allowed expenses.
- 3. All bills will be paid by Yellow Medicine County Human Services within 30 days of receipt. Financial workers may choose to provide a recipient with a voucher for transportation or other travel-related service.

D. Service Restrictions:

- 1. Payment shall be made for the most cost-effective available means of transportation which is suitable to the recipient's medical needs. As mentioned in Section I.B., authorization to incur costs of transportation and other related travel expenses may be required *except when* there is an emergency or in cases of retroactive eligibility.
- 2. When the recipient's attending physician makes a referral or the recipient requests to be transported to a medical provider that is not the closest provider capable of providing the level of care the client requires, access services require authorization by the local agency prior to the recipient incurring the costs of the ATS services.
- 3. Yellow Medicine County *will not reimburse* the recipient for transportation provided at no cost to the recipient.

Part II. ADA & Meaningful Access to Services

A. Services Available:

Yellow Medicine County Human Services will provide interpreter services to Deaf, blind, hard of hearing and Deaf/blind persons, and individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) who are seeking or receiving assistance from Yellow Medicine County Human Services.

Yellow Medicine County Human Services will provide other assistance or services such as training, videos, information pamphlets or other services to individuals seeking or receiving assistance from Yellow Medicine County Human Services Medical Assistance (MA) or other service providers, regardless of size, shall provide interpreter services to Deaf, blind, hard of hearing and Deaf/blind persons, and individuals with LEP who are seeking or receiving assistance as soon as the Deaf, hard of hearing, Deaf/blind person, individual with LEP makes the request or when the need is determined. If subsequent appointments are necessary they also need to be arranged prior to appointment.

Providers must offer this service at no cost and in a timely manner to the recipient as pertaining to State and Federal laws. This service only applies when the interpretation is provided in conjunction with another covered service, and does not apply to scheduling or arranging medical services.

B. Procedures to Obtain Services:

Yellow Medicine County Human Services staff are responsible for providing an interpreter if it is deemed necessary to serve a Deaf, hard of hearing, Deaf/blind client or individual with LEP, or if the Deaf, hard of hearing, Deaf/blind client or individual with LEP requests an interpreter.

To locate a sign language interpreter, go to http://www.interpreterreferral.org. For a spoken language interpreter, staff may go to the spoken language interpreter roster maintained by the Department of Health at: http://www.health.state.mn.us/interpreters. For further information, staff should follow the county's LEP plan about how to contact either a sign language interpreter or a foreign spoken language interpreter. Yellow Medicine County Human Services will make the request as early as possible for the referral agency to locate a qualified interpreter.

C. Billing and Payment Procedures:

Yellow Medicine County Human Services will negotiate fees with the referral agency or interpreter. Yellow Medicine County Human Services will pay the interpreter for the service and charge the expense to the MA administrative account for reimbursement purposes. All bills will be paid by Yellow Medicine County Human Services within 30 days of receipt.

D. Service Restrictions: None

Part III. Access to Appeal Hearing Services

A. Services Available:

- 1. Reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses of applicants/recipients attendance at an appeal hearing, such as meals, lodging, parking, transportation, and child care costs.
- 2. Assistance from Yellow Medicine County Human Services staff in locating transportation.

B. Procedures to Obtain Services:

Applicants/recipients shall contact their worker at Yellow Medicine County Human Services if assistance in locating transportation or reimbursement for transportation and/or child care expenses will be needed to ensure the applicants/recipient's attendance at an appeal hearing.

C. Billing and Payment Procedures:

Transportation expenses will be reimbursed according to the same criteria established in Part I. Providers of transportation services must submit dated, itemized bills for service to Yellow Medicine County Human Services for payment. Applicants/recipients and other persons eligible for cost of transportation services shall submit to Yellow Medicine County Human Services actual receipts, when available, or signed, dated, and itemized statements of mileage. All bills will be paid by Yellow Medicine County Human Services within 30 days of receipt.

Yellow Medicine County staff may choose to provide a recipient with a voucher for transportation.

Child care costs are reimbursable to the applicant/recipient for the time duration of the hearing, including travel to and from the child care provider. Child care will be reimbursed at the current "Child Care Program" hourly rate. Yellow Medicine County Human Services will reimburse applicants/recipients directly for their transportation and/or child care costs and then

charge the expense to the MA Program administrative account for reimbursement.

D. Service Restrictions:

Yellow Medicine County Human Services will not pay for child care if services are provided at no charge to the applicant/recipient.

Part IV. County Vouchers

What is the county's/tribe's plan for clients who cannot afford to pay up-front for a bus pass or taxi?

Yellow Medicine County Human Services will arrange for a bus pass to be issued and the bill sent to the county agency when the client cannot afford to pay upfront for a bus pass. Taxi service is not available in Yellow Medicine County.

Do you provide bus passes or taxi vouchers to clients?

No. See above.

Part V. Administration of Common Carrier

Do you contract for common carrier services? Yes

If yes, please submit a copy of your 2013 through 2014 contract.

Part VI. Notification to MA Recipients of Health Care Access Services

A. The local agency or tribe shall inform a recipient of the Health Care Access transportation plan. Applicants must be informed of available services at time of application, recertification and if the county adjusts their access transportation service plan.

B. Applicants/Recipients will be given a copy of the "Notice of Access Service Availability to Eligible Minnesota Health Care Program Recipients" attached to this plan. clients of the new process as necessary.

C. A copy of all handouts given to applicants/recipients in Yellow Medicine County informing them of access transportation and related ancillary service availability are attached to this plan.

Part VII. Other County/Tribe Specific Policies/Procedures/Conditions

What are the identified gaps, issues, and/or barriers for transportation services in your area?

This has been repeated year after year and just doesn't get any better. Not paying for no load miles is a major issue in rural Minnesota. Residents of most communities have to travel out of town to receive even their basic medical services. If this results in an overnight stay for the MA recipient, the driver of a child or adult with a medical restriction prohibiting driving is then not compensated for half of the trip. For those persons without a vehicle and relying on volunteer drivers, not only is the volunteer driver organization not reimbursed for the miles from the medical facility when a recipient is not in the vehicle, but they are also not reimbursed for the miles to get the volunteer driver to the recipient in the first place. Being able to keep a volunteer driver force viable in rural Minnesota is mandatory. We don't have a bus (other than within the cities of Granite Falls and Canby; and these run on an on-call basis rather than on a schedule), light rail or taxi services available to get clients without vehicles to medical appointments. Availability of volunteer

drivers for weekend trips has become an issue. Recently we received a call on a Friday afternoon that a MA client was ready for discharge from an urban hospital. We contacted all of our volunteer resources and still were not able to get that client picked up until Monday.

The \$.20 per mile reimbursement for client miles driven is also an issue. With gas prices as high as they are and our low income clients not being able to afford newer/efficient vehicles, often the reimbursement does not cover the cost of gas, much less wear and tear on the vehicle.

What coordination efforts is the county/tribe involved in to provide transportation services to its members such as Regional Transportation Planning initiatives?

Yellow Medicine County is conjunction with 4 other counties participates in the Prairie V RIDES program. Besides organizing volunteer drivers, this organization also manages small buses to bring groups of people to a larger community in one trip. When possible they try to use this system for medical transportation, but timing of appointments, physical conditions following medical care, etc. often make this option impossible to use.

In the space below, please communicate any policies and procedures not covered in the document that reflect local agency or tribe administration of Access Services.

All requests for reimbursements under any of the above sections must be submitted to Yellow Medicine County Family Services within 3 months of being incurred, or in the case of applicants, within 3 months of receiving a Health Care Program approval notice. Requests received later than 3 months after the date of being incurred will be denied, unless the client can document extenuating circumstances.

Part VIII. Outside Provider Contracting

Counties/tribes entering into a contract with an outside organization/provider for providing transportation service(s) or coordination activities for ATS provided to/for the MHCP recipient **MUST** submit to DHS:

- 1. A copy of the ALL contract(s) with outside entities related to ATS
- 2. A statement of the per trip rate(s) or administration fee paid to the provider/coordinator
- 3. Documentation to show how the rates for transport or administrative fees were established Counties/tribes utilizing an outside provider/coordinator to provide access transportation or administration should not enter into such contracts and provide reimbursement until they have

submitted their contract(s) to DHS for review. Counties/tribes should send contracts to:

Bob Ries

Health Service and Medical Management Minnesota Department of Human Services 540 Cedar St

St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0984 Email: Bob.Ries@state.mn,us.

Fax: (651) 431-742.

Part IX Upon 60 Day Notice, DHS May Terminate This Plan.

Yellow Medicine County Family Service Center 930 4th Street, Suite 4 Granite Falls, MN 56241-1463 (320) 564-2211

		on for the reimbursement of r		
need to:	on	Your request has b	een approved. Before	e payment will be made, you
Complete th	e attached vouch	her, attach verification of you	ır appointment and at	tach receipts.
		her, attach verification of you erral form that I have enclose		receipts and have your
If the agency verifies that to of these expenses may be		t to the closest provider capa	ble of providing the se	ervice needed, reimbursement
If you have any questions,	please contact m	ne at the address or phone nu	umber listed above.	
Ashley				
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	(Granite Falls, MN 5624		
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Ashley				

MEDICAL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT CLAIM FORM

Reimbursement will be paid to the closest provider capable of providing the level of care needed, if the medical service is a covered expense under your MinnesotaCare or MA plan.

Receipts are required for meals, lodging and parking. Reimbursement for meals, lodging and parking will be at actual cost, not to exceed the maximum limits. See your HEALTH CARE ACCESS SERVICES NOTICE for more information, or contact Ashley at (320) 564-2211.

Complete the information below for each appointment that you are requesting reimbursement. You must attach verification of the date and time of the appointment (for example, your appointment card or letter).

1	1 Date of appointment: Time of appointment:	
2.	1. Date of appointment: Time of appointment: 2. Name of Enrolleg getting medical care:	
3.		he medical provider is
٥.	needed to verify why an additional person was needed at the medical facility.	The integration provider is
4.	4. Name and address of the medical provider:	
5.		
6.	6. Number of round trip miles driven:	
7.	 6. Number of round trip miles driven: 7. Breakfast: \$ Lunch: \$ Dinner: \$ meal expenses are being claimed for more than one person, itemize expenses for the additional description. 	If
		onal person on a
_	separate sheet of paper.	
8.	8. Lodging expense: \$	
9.	9. Parking expense: \$	
	1. Date of appointment: Time of appointment:	
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4	4. Name and address of the medical provider:	
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	meal expenses are being claimed for more than one person, itemize expenses for the addition	onal person on a
	separate sheet of paper.	
	8. Lodging expense: \$	
9.	9. Parking expense: \$	
	1. Date of appointment: Time of appointment:	
2.		
3.	3. Was the enrollee in the vehicle during this trip?Yes No. If "no", a statement from t	he medical provider is
1	needed to verify why an additional person was needed at the medical facility. 4. Name and address of the medical provider:	
4.		
5.	5. Telephone number of the provider:	
7.	7. Breakfast: \$ Lunch: \$ Dinner: \$	If
	meal expenses are being claimed for more than one person, itemize expenses for the addition	
	separate sheet of paper.	
8.	8. Lodging expense: \$	
۵	9. Parking expense: \$	

I declare under the penalties of law that this account, claim or demand is just and correct and no part has been paid. 1. State the name of the responsible relative or other person who needed to be present with the enrollee at the medical appointment: _____ 2. Relationship to the enrollee: 3. Reason the additional person needed to be present: ______ ____ Enrollee Driver Check who you are: ____ Neighbor _____ Family member _____ Licensed Foster Parent ____ Medical Service Provider _____ Friend Employer Name:_____ DATE: _____ CLAIMANT SIGNATURE: SSN: _____ ADDRESS: PHONE: The effect of this verification shall be the same as if subscribed and sworn to under oath. M.S.A. 471.38. Yellow Medicine County Family Service Center Submit your claim to: 930 4th Street, Suite 4 Granite Falls, MN 56241 DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS AREA **AGENCY USE ONLY:** PROGRAM: MA or MNCare CASE #: _____ Approved By: Date Approved: Total Allowed Miles: _____ X .20 = Total Allowed Miles: _____ X .56 = **Total Allowed Meals:** \$ Total Allowed Parking: \$ _____ Total Allowed Lodging: \$ _____ Total – Other:

TOTAL CLAIM TO BE PAID

Yellow Medicine County Family Service Center Medical Mileage Reimbursement Medical Provider Referral

Date:	Patient:
	der (closest provider capable of providing the level of care needed):
Services being provided:	
	s with this provider within the next 12 months? Yes No_
	, it verifies that services needed are not provided within your scope of practice and you ovider that is capable of providing that level of care.
Medical Provider Signature:	Date:
Facility Name, Address and Phone N	umber:
Date:	Medical Provider Referral Patient:
·	Patient: der (closest provider capable of providing the level of care needed):
	s with this provider within the next 12 months? Yes No_
	, it verifies that services needed are not provided within your scope of practice and you ovider that is capable of providing that level of care.
Medical Provider Signature:	
Facility Name, Address and Phone N	umber: